demonstrated what could be done in a few years by proper methods. Other agencies have made beginnings—although taking the country as a whole the problem is as unsolved as it was a half-century ago.

Recently many thoughtful Chinese have come to a profound conviction that the farmer must be helped to a richer life and a higher standard of living if the nation is really to make progress. Toward this end a good many experiments have been made and are being made by individuals and groups. The movement has probably been hastened by the attention which the Communist* have paid to the farmer. In some sections the Reds have broken up the large estates and have brought about a considerable redistribution of the land.

What results these efforts at improvement will have ought not yet to be confidently predicted. Agriculture and the status of the fanner will inevitably, however, remain a determining factor not only in the economic life of the country but in social, political, and religious development.

INDUSTRY

One of the interesting features of agriculture in China is the considerable percentage of his produce which the farmer exchanges for cash. This means that with all their simplicity and monotony of life and low standards of living farms are not entirely self-sufficient. It also means considerable specialization in industry, no small amount of domestic commerce, and marked development of towns and cities.

Towns seem to have begun in very early historic times. As far back as the Chou dynasty an urban life was appearing. In a certain sense primitive Taoism was a protest against the resulting

complexity of civilization. Certainly under the Ch'ing there were great cities and hundreds of smaller towns and villages. It is not at all improbable that until the modern methods of transportation and agriculture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries had given rise to the huge growth in the metropolitan populations of the world, the chief cities of China were as large as those anywhere on the planet. This indicates a diversified economic life.

As in practically all the rest of the world before the nineteenth century, industry in China on the eve of the changes wrought by